

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A thermoplastic resin foam which is a thermoplastic resin sheet containing a metallic oxide and has fine pores with mean bubble diameter of 10 μm or less within.

Claim 2 (Original): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 1, wherein the content of said metallic oxide is 0.1 to 15 parts by weight to said thermoplastic resin of 100 parts by weight.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said metallic oxide is zinc oxide.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A thermoplastic resin foam according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic resin is polyester.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A thermoplastic resin foam according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 which is manufactured by a manufacturing method comprising a process for containing inert gas by holding a thermoplastic resin sheet containing metallic oxide in a pressurized inert gas atmosphere and a process for heating the thermoplastic resin sheet containing the inert gas under normal pressure and foaming the resin.

Claim 6 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 2, wherein said metallic oxide is zinc oxide.

Claim 7 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic resin is polyester.

Claim 8 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 3, wherein said thermoplastic resin is polyester.

Claim 9 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 6, wherein said thermoplastic resin is polyester.

Claim 10 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 2 which is manufactured by a manufacturing method comprising a process for containing inert gas by holding a thermoplastic resin sheet containing metallic oxide in a pressurized inert gas atmosphere and a process for heating the thermoplastic resin sheet containing the inert gas under normal pressure and foaming the resin.

Claim 11 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 3 which is manufactured by a manufacturing method comprising a process for containing inert gas by holding a thermoplastic resin sheet containing metallic oxide in a pressurized inert gas atmosphere and a process for heating the thermoplastic resin sheet containing the inert gas under normal pressure and foaming the resin.

Claim 12 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 4 which is manufactured by a manufacturing method comprising a process for containing inert gas by holding a thermoplastic resin sheet containing metallic oxide in a pressurized inert gas

atmosphere and a process for heating the thermoplastic resin sheet containing the inert gas under normal pressure and foaming the resin.

Claim 13 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 6 which is manufactured by a manufacturing method comprising a process for containing inert gas by holding a thermoplastic resin sheet containing metallic oxide in a pressurized inert gas atmosphere and a process for heating the thermoplastic resin sheet containing the inert gas under normal pressure and foaming the resin.

Claim 14 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 7 which is manufactured by a manufacturing method comprising a process for containing inert gas by holding a thermoplastic resin sheet containing metallic oxide in a pressurized inert gas atmosphere and a process for heating the thermoplastic resin sheet containing the inert gas under normal pressure and foaming the resin.

Claim 15 (New): A thermoplastic resin foam according to claim 8 which is manufactured by a manufacturing method comprising a process for containing inert gas by holding a thermoplastic resin sheet containing metallic oxide in a pressurized inert gas atmosphere and a process for heating the thermoplastic resin sheet containing the inert gas under normal pressure and foaming the resin.